

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 106

20p



A central illustration of a warrior with a blue and yellow tunic, a helmet with large feather-like wings, and a belt with various pouches. He stands on a rocky, yellowish ground. In the background, there are several small, dark, insect-like flying creatures and a larger, more complex mechanical vehicle with a skull emblem. The sky is a bright, hazy yellow.

SPACE WARRIOR

STARBLAZER

HISTORY ABOUNDS WITH THE EXPLOITS OF WARRIORS WHO ROSE TO THE DEFENCE OF RIGHT AND JUSTICE IN A TIME OF NEED. SUCH AS KING ARTHUR, ROBIN HOOD, JOAN OF ARC, ROBERT THE BRUCE GRACE THE STORIES OF EVERY CULTURE. SUCH A WARRIOR WAS KARDOR OF GANDAL. GANDAL WAS AN EARTH COLONY WHICH WAS CONSTANTLY RAIDED BY THE BLOODLUSTING JAKAL. A MASSACRE WAS THE OBVIOUS OUTCOME UNTIL KARDOR UNITED GANDAL TO DEFEAT THE JAKAL.

DURING THE FINAL BATTLE, KARDOR WAS WOUNDED, AND DEPARTED TO DIE ALONE LIKE KING ARTHUR THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEFORE.

A CENTURY HAD ELAPSED AND AN EARTH FREIGHTER PASSED THROUGH THE GANDAL SYSTEM, CLOSE TO A RESTRICTED PLANET.

SPACE WARRIOR

THE GANDAL SYSTEM WAS LARGELY UNCHARTED AND ALL FREIGHTERS, PASSING THROUGH HAD A MARINE PATROL CRAFT AS ESCORT. X-5, THE PATROL CRAFT, SECONDED FROM THE FLEET STARSHIP, PEGASUS, SWEEPED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE OF EPTIRAN.



THAT'S EPTIRAN,
RANAL.

I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.
ANY CHANCE OF GOING LOWER?

4
ABOARD X-5 WERE LIEUTENANT RANAL BLANE OF THE GALACTIC MARINE CORPS AND HIS SERGEANT, JOSEF KONRAD.

THERE'S NO NAV BEACONS HERE,
THAT'S WHY ALL COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC
AVOIDS IT... BUT IF WE KEEP ON
VISUAL WE'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH.



X-5 PASSED SLOWLY OVER EPTIRAN—

WE'LL TAKE ONE LOW
SWEEP AND THAT'S IT.



AS THEY SWEEP OVER EPTIRAN—

WHAT THE...

IT'S A WARCRAFT!



THE WARCRAFT OPENED FIRE.

THAT'S A JAKAL
WARCRAFT!

GET A SIGNAL TO
PEGASUS QUICK, JOE!

THE JAKAL WERE COLONIAL RIVALS OF EARTH.

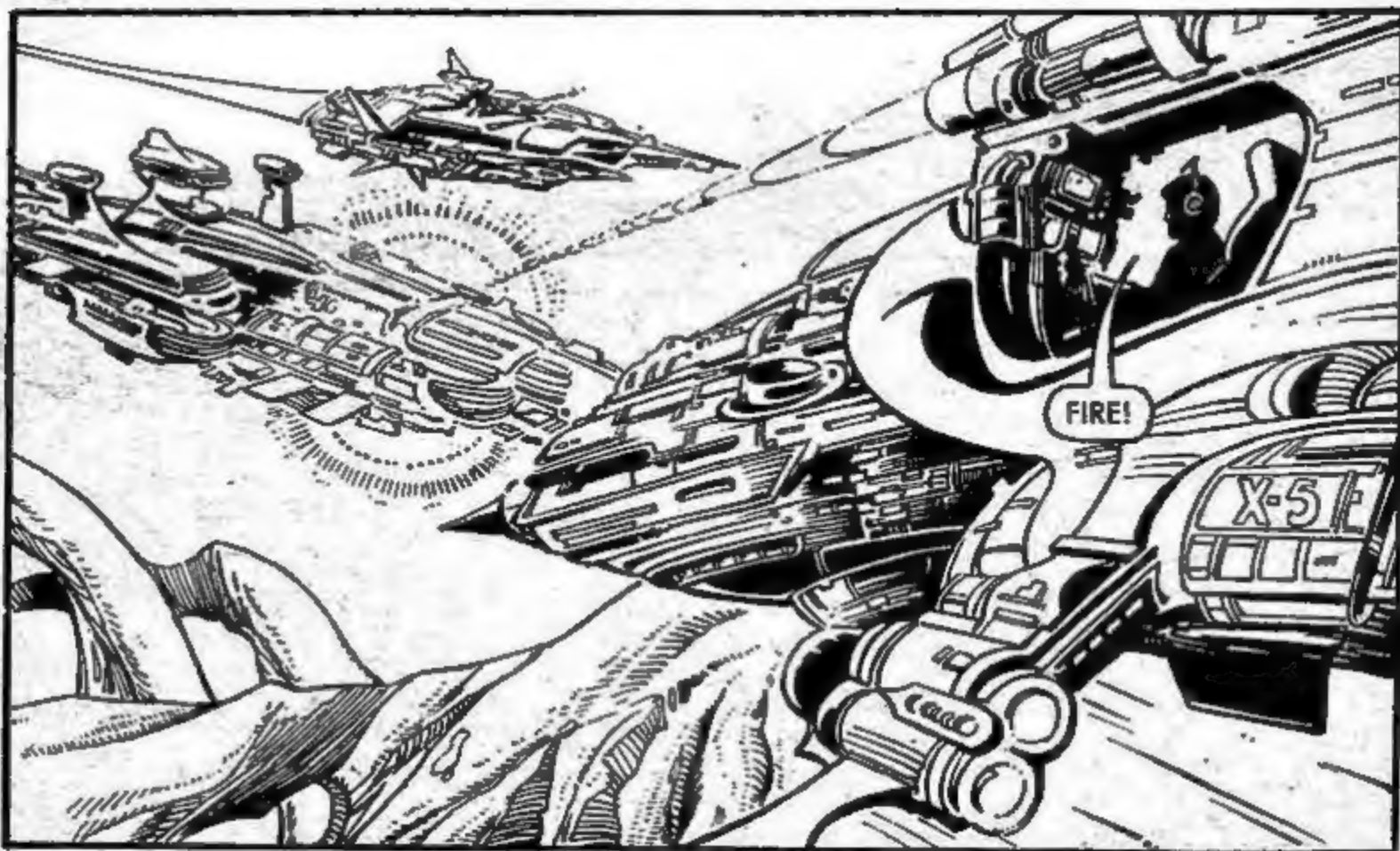
ON BOARD THE JAKAL CRAFT.

DESTROY THAT PATROL CRAFT! IT MUST
NOT BE ALLOWED TO WARN OTHERS
OF OUR PRESENCE ON EPTIRAN!
DESTROY!

X-5 WEAVED AND DODGED BUT COULD NOT ESCAPE THE DEADLY LASER FIRE FROM THE ATTACKING JAKAL WARCRRAFT.

I CAN'T EVEN GET OUT
A DISTRESS SIGNAL!

TURN AND FACE THEM...
WE'LL FIGHT!!



BUT THE ODDS WERE TOO GREAT, AND X-5 WAS REPEATEDLY HIT—



IF WE CAN MAKE IT TO THAT FOREST,
WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE OF
LOSING THOSE JAKALS!

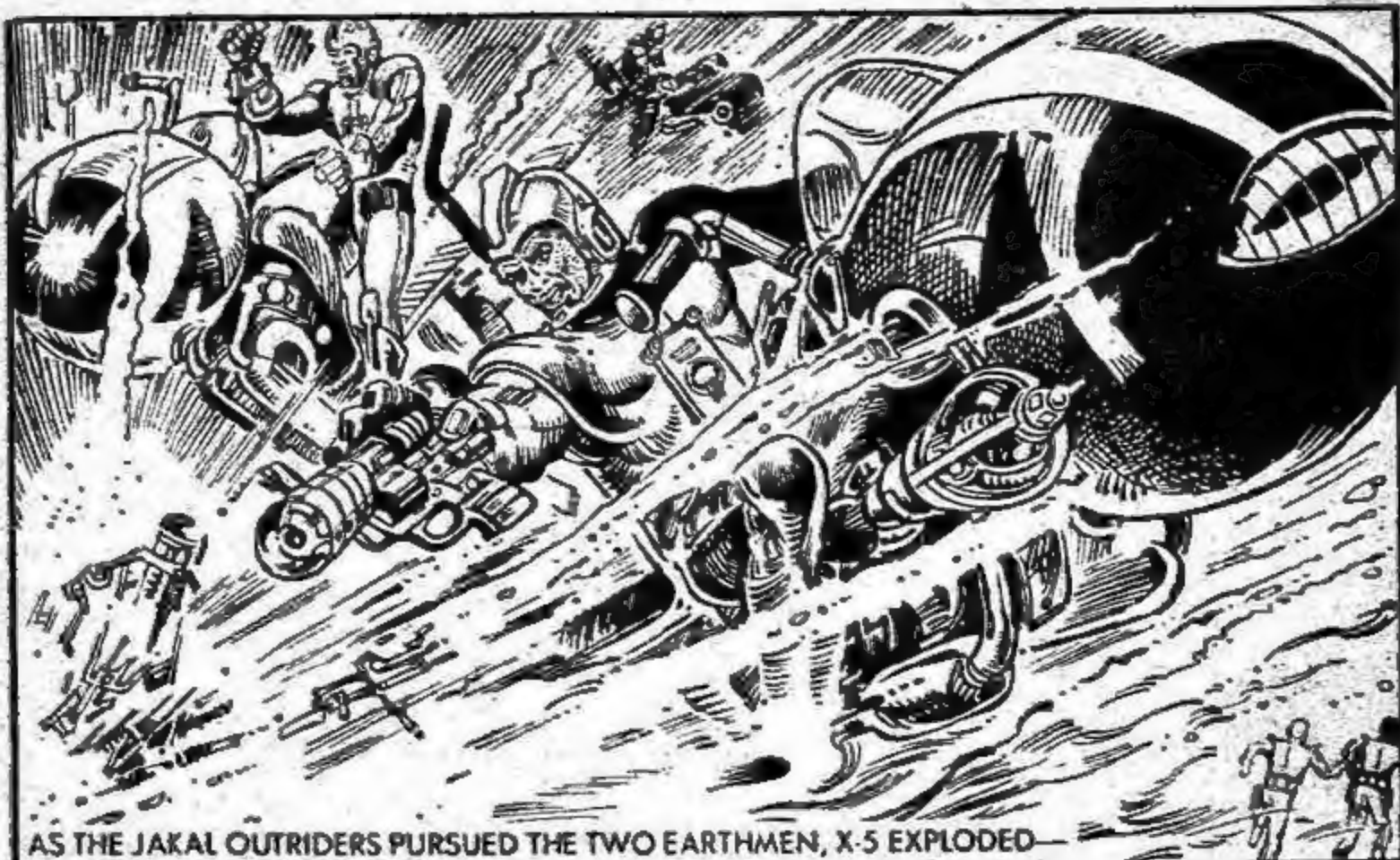
THE ATMOSPHERE
READING IS POSITIVE.



THE PATROL SHIP SKIDDED THROUGH THE FOREST—

LET'S GET OUT FAST! I'VE SET THE SELF
DESTRUCT MECHANISM FOR 20 SECONDS.







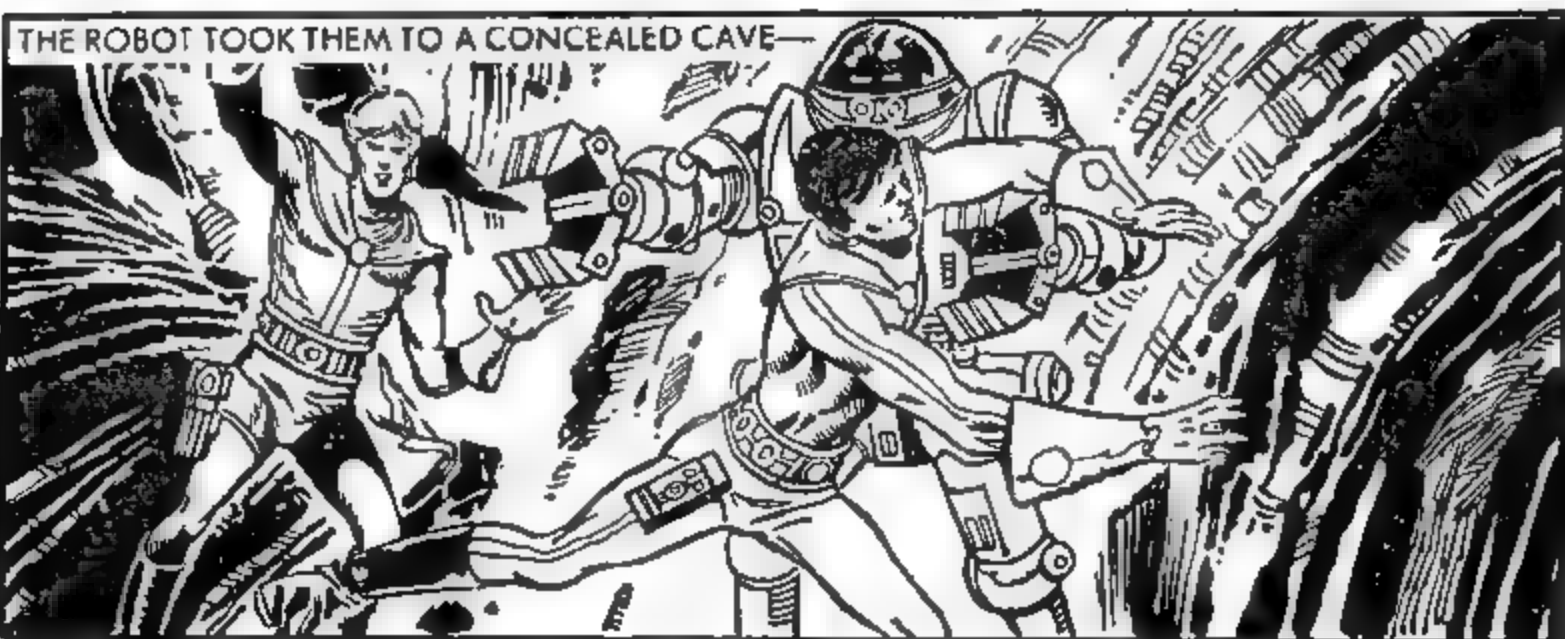
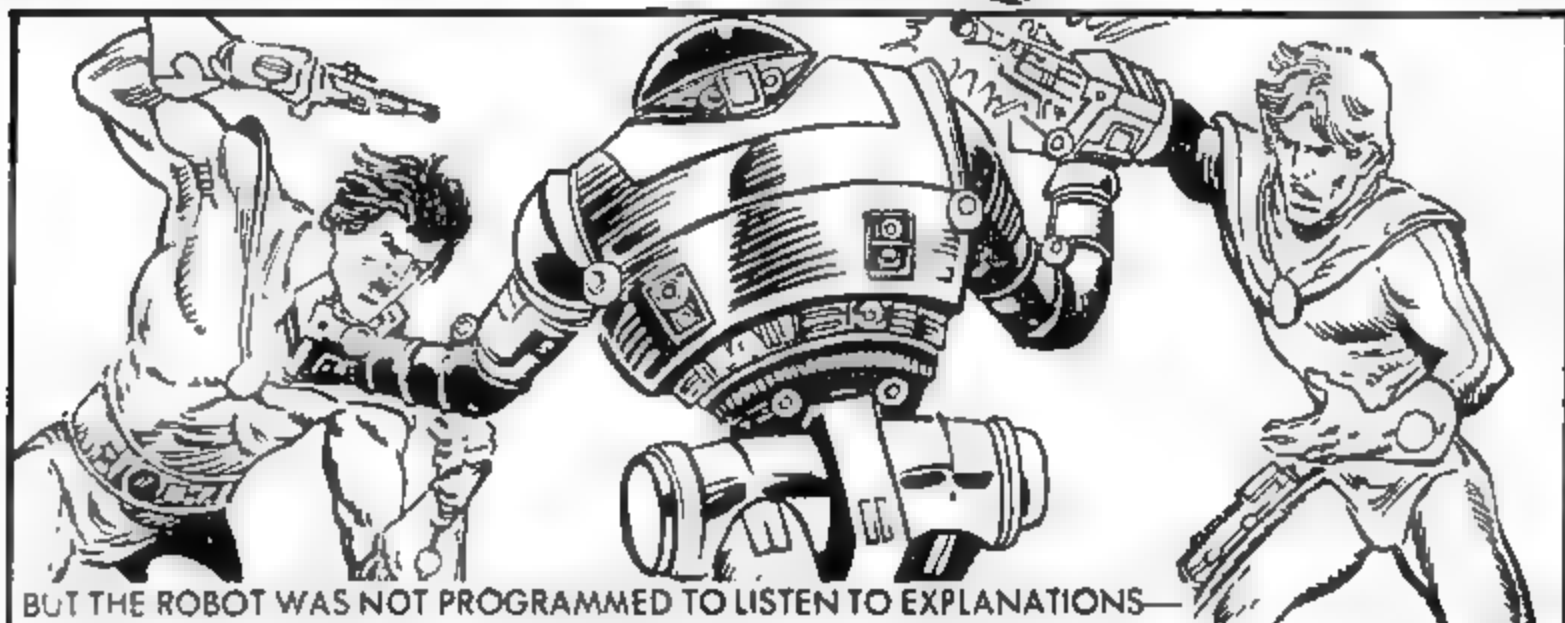
THE TWO MEN CROUCHED IN THE TINY CAVE AS THE SEARCHING JAKALS PASSED—














LET NO HARM COME TO THESE EARTHMEN. 'T WAS
SUCH AS THESE I FOUGHT BESIDE IN THE GREAT
WAR, MANY REVOLUTIONS AGO!

KARDOR! BUT YOU'RE DEAD.

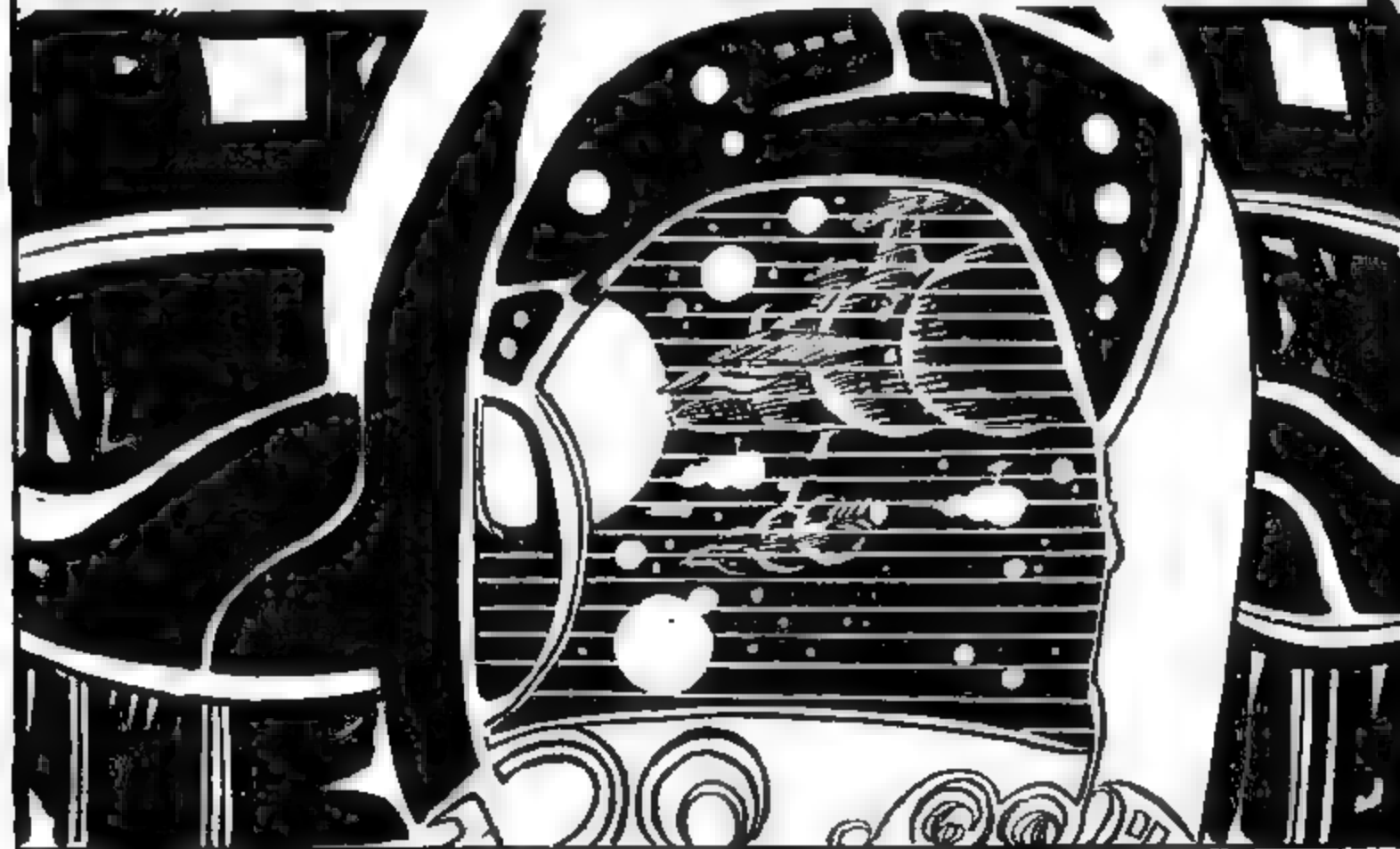
I CAME HERE TO DIE, BUT THE PLANT
LIFE HERE HEALED MY WOUNDS. NOW
I LIVE OUT MY DAYS IN PEACE AND
MEDITATION.



I AM, IN EARTH YEARS, 142—FOR THE FIRST 42 I WAS A KILLING MACHINE. AS I LAY AT DEATH'S DOOR I THOUGHT DEEPLY OF MY LIFE...
GUARDIAN, SHOW THEM...



ON THE GUARDIAN'S VIDSCREEN KARDOR'S LAST BATTLE AGAINST THE JAKALS WAS SHOWN—





... THE GANDALIANS WON, THANKS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF KARDOR, BUT HE WAS BADLY WOUNDED AND LEFT TO DIE ALONE ...


SENSORS INDICATE THAT EPTIRAN HAS AN ATMOSPHERE CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING LIFE ...

WELL, IT WON'T HAVE TO SUSTAIN MINE LONG

BUT EPTIRAN HAD MORE THAN AN ATMOSPHERE: IT HAD PLANTS THAT WHEN PROCESSED SPEEDED UP CELL REGENERATION. KARDOR'S ROBOT QUICKLY DISCOVERED THIS FACT, AND AFTER ONLY A FEW UNITS —

SO I STILL LIVE FRIEND ... THANKS TO YOU AND THIS PLANET.

I WAS MERELY FOLLOWING THE PRIME LAW OF ROBOTICS.



WE HAD DISCOVERED A PLANET ON WHICH
MAN COULD LIVE FOREVER ... AND IT IS A
TRAGEDY IF THIS BECOMES KNOWN. THINK OF
THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD WISH TO BE
IMMORTAL. WE DECIDED TO REMAIN HERE AS
PROTECTORS OF THIS SECRET. ELECTRONIC
GUIDANCE SYSTEMS PUT OUT SIGNALS
INDICATING THAT THIS PLANET IS
UNINHABITABLE. WE ARE RARELY DISTURBED

BUT THE JAKALS HADN'T GIVEN UP THE SEARCH FOR BLANE AND KONRAD—



THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!
RESISTANCE IS USELESS!

JAKALS!

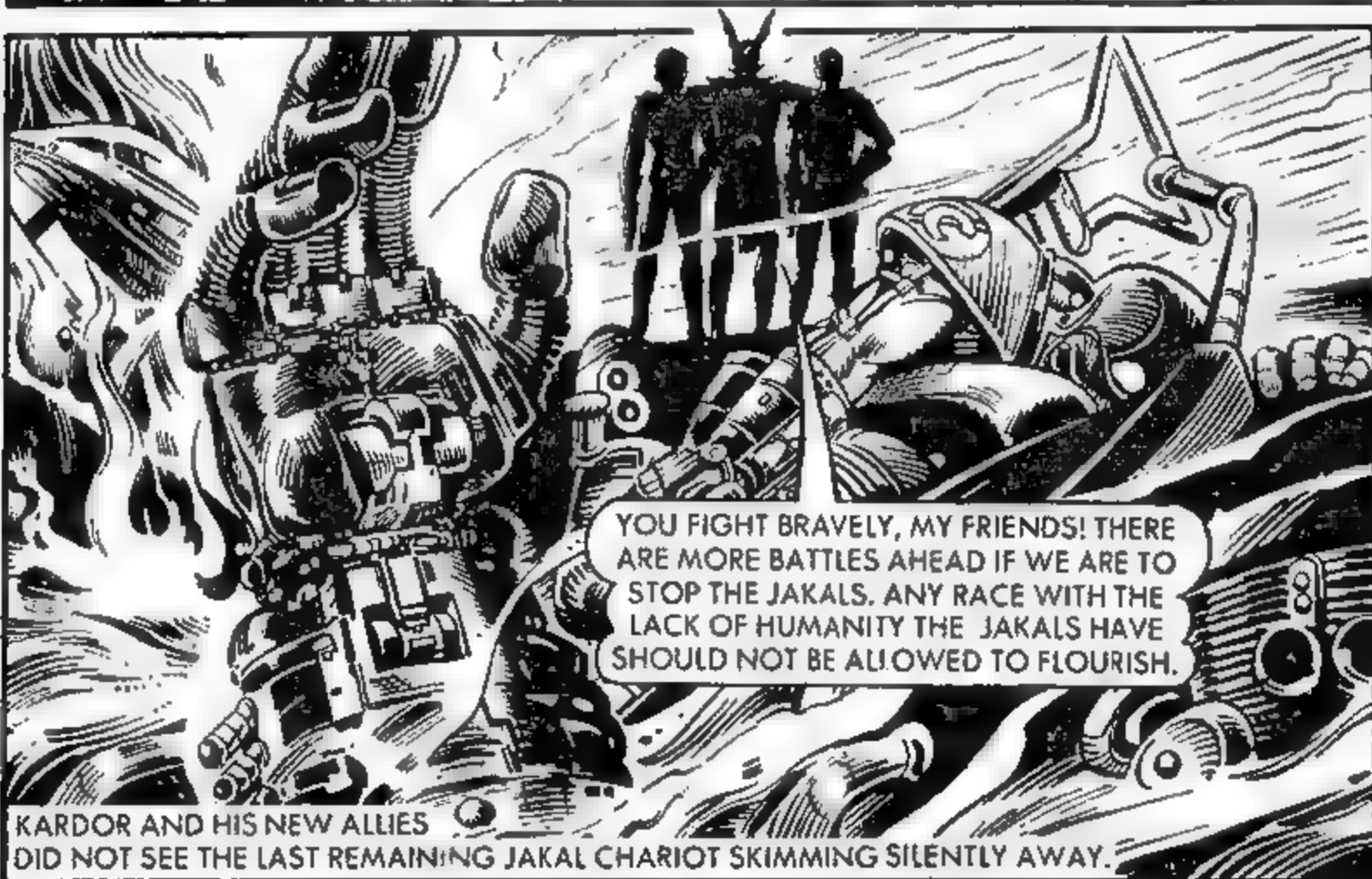


COME IN PEACE, JAKALS.









THIS ROBOT WAS BUT A THING OF METAL, YET FOR YEARS IT WAS MY ONLY FRIEND AND COMPANION. WE SHALL GO BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS. THE JAKALS WILL KNOW THE VENGEANCE OF KARDOR.




THE JAKAL SURVIVOR RETURNED TO THE WARCRAFT

YOU BRING NEWS OF THE INTRUDERS? THEY ARE DEAD?

NO! THEY LIVE—AND KARDOR THE WARRIOR HAS RETURNED FROM THE DEAD TO FIGHT BESIDE THEM!




THE WARCRAFT COMMANDER REPORTED AT ONCE TO THE JAKAL LEADER, MIZAK.



SO, KARDOR, THE SCOURGE
OF THE JAKAL, IS ALIVE

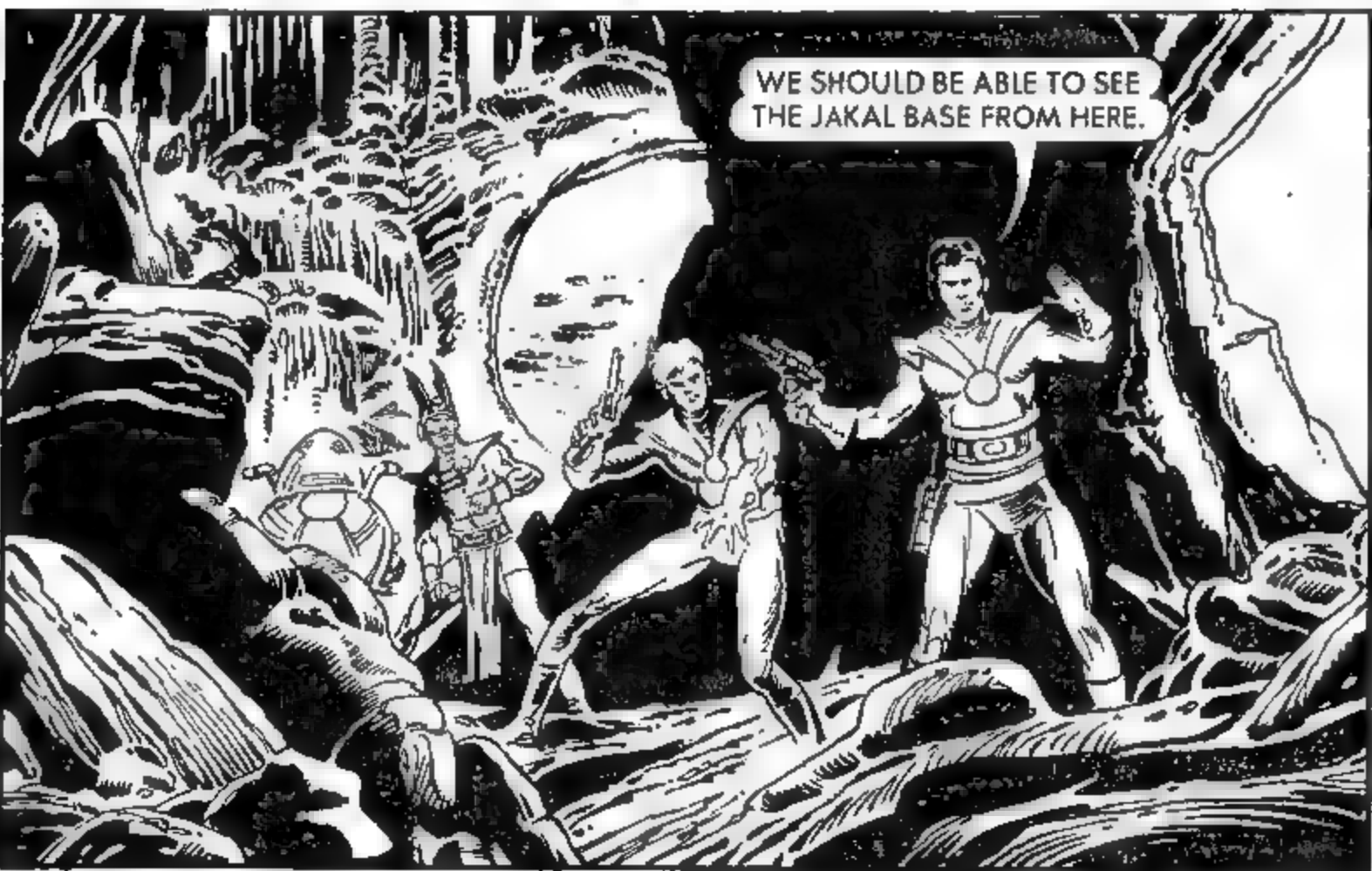
BUT NOT FOR LONG, SIRE WE KNOW
WHERE HE AND THE EARTHMEN ARE I
WILL DESTROY THE ENTIRE AREA WITH
MEGABLASTERS!

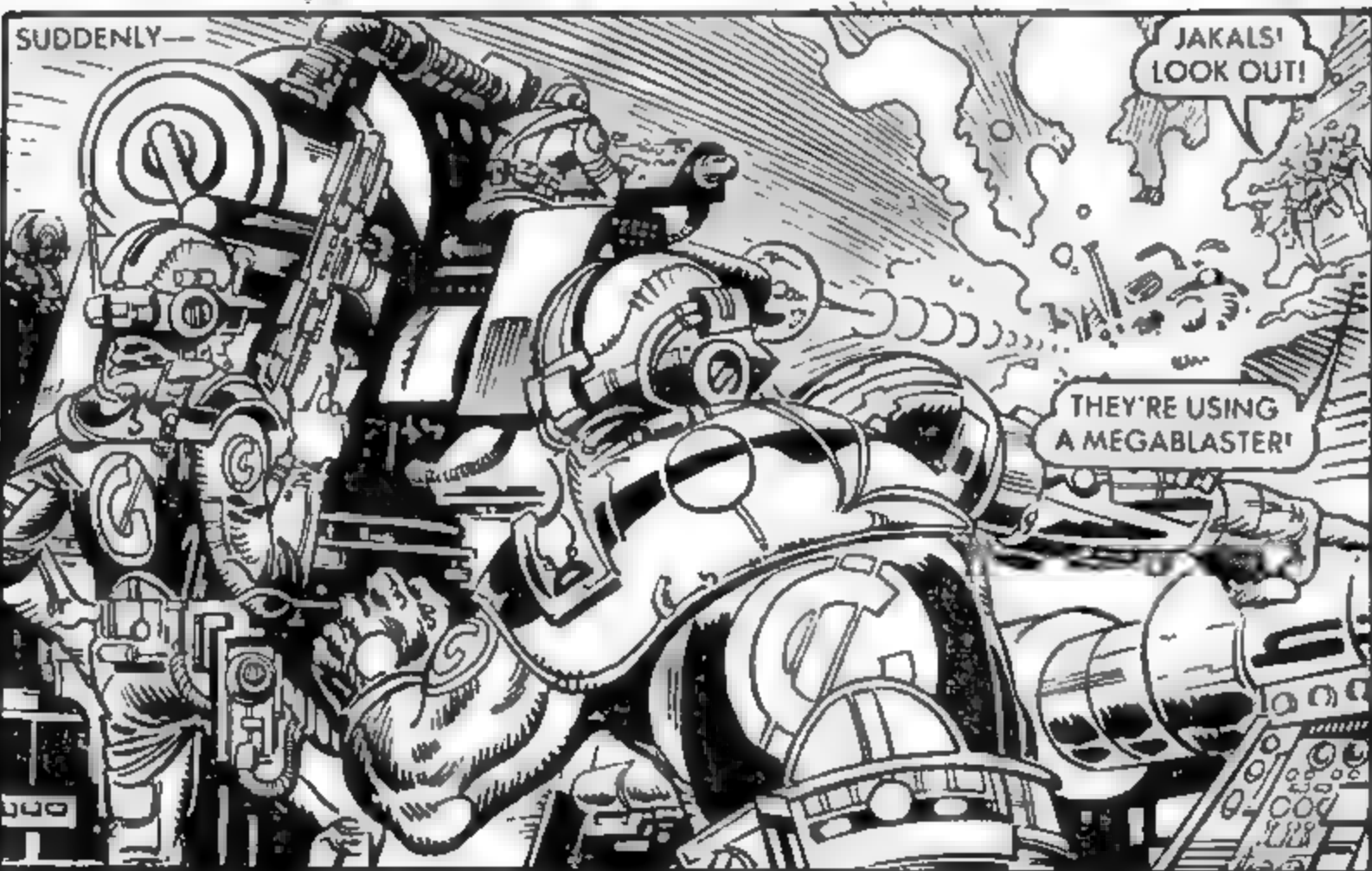
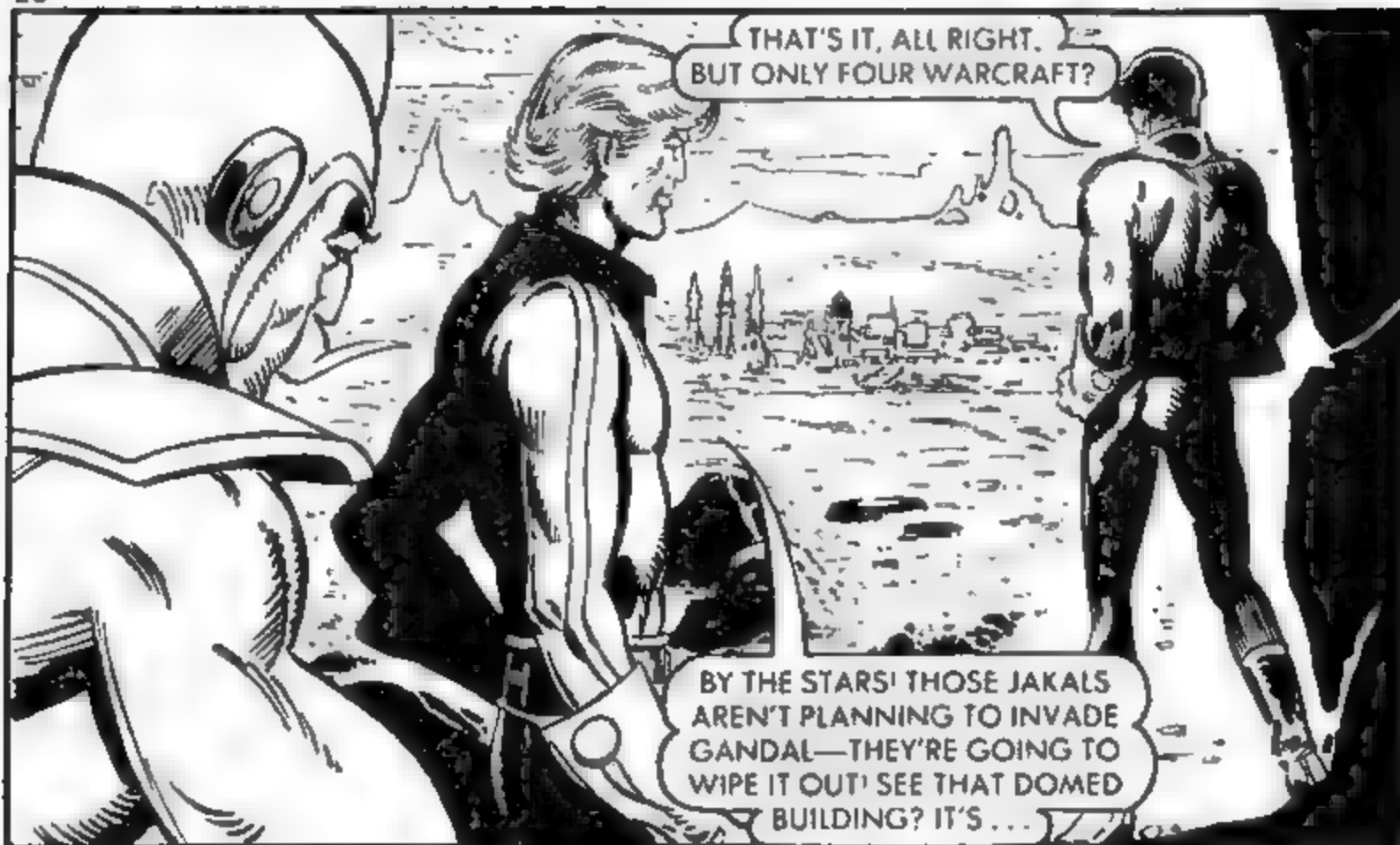


NO! RETURN TO BASE. KARDOR
WILL COME HERE WITH THE
EARTHMEN, SEEKING TO DEFEAT
US!

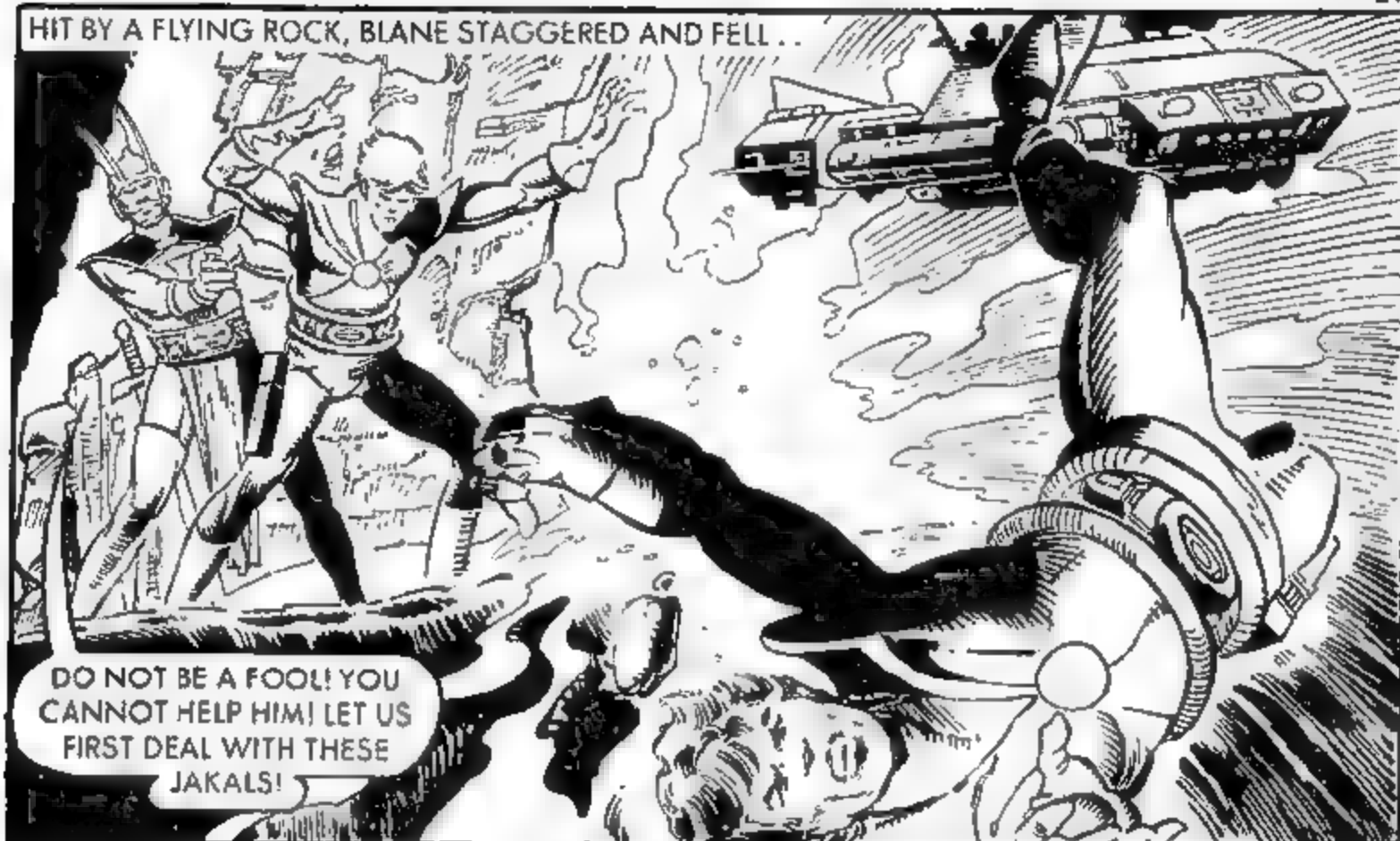


MEANWHILE KARDOR AND HIS COMPANIONS HEADED TOWARDS THE MOUNTAINS.





HIT BY A FLYING ROCK, BLANE STAGGERED AND FELL...



BLANE STRUCK A LEDGE AND LAY UNCONSCIOUS





A character with a pointed-ear helmet and a cape stands in a dark, rocky cave. A small, boxy flying vehicle with a propeller is hovering in the air above them. The character is looking up at the vehicle.

SURRENDER, FOOLS! YOU HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST MEGABLASTS.

IT SEEMS THEY WANT US ALIVE.
THAT GIVES US A CHANCE!



A character in a pointed-ear helmet and cape stands on a rocky ledge. A small flying vehicle is visible in the background. A large, jagged rock formation is in the foreground, and a massive explosion is occurring on the right side of the panel, with debris flying everywhere. The character is looking towards the explosion.

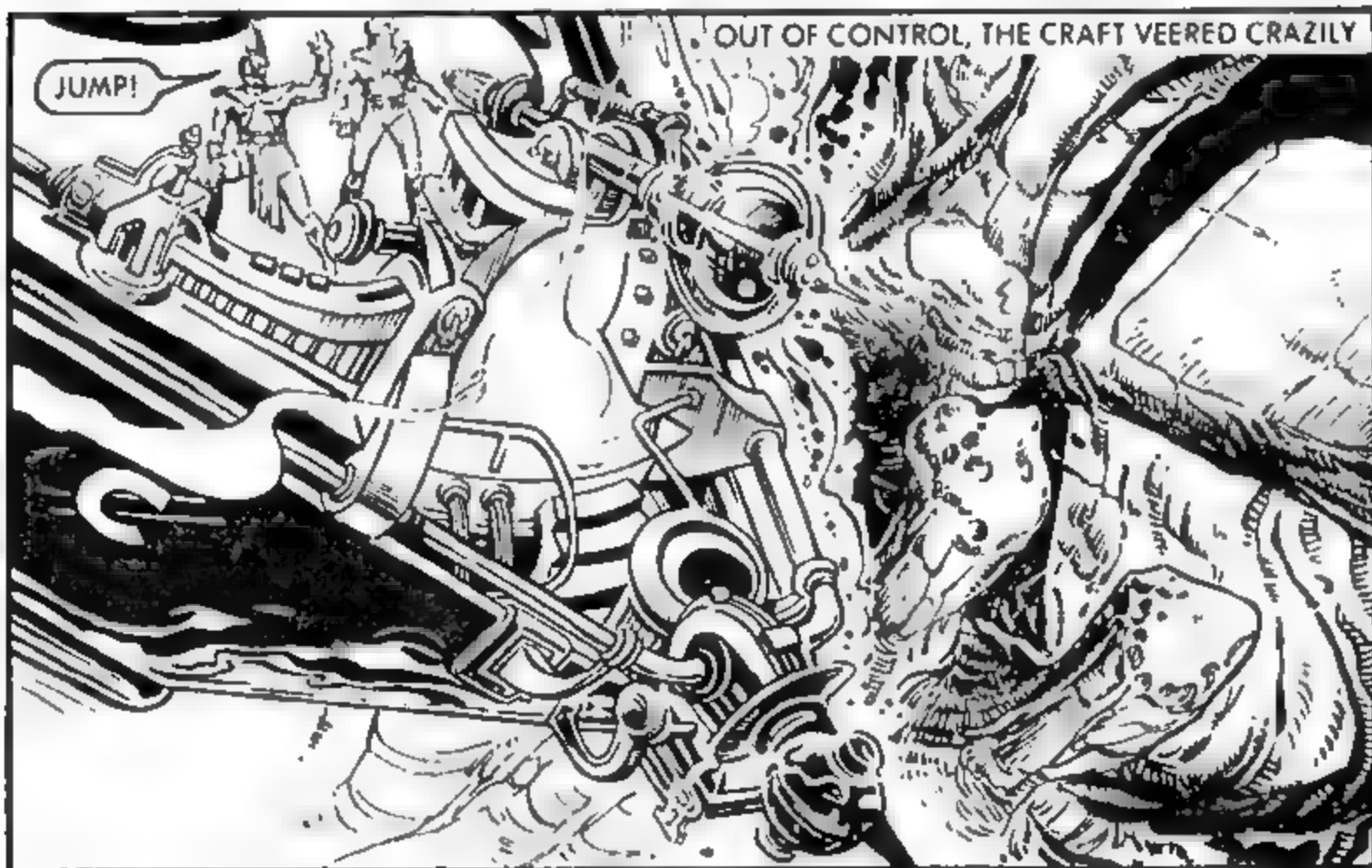
SURRENDER, OR THE NEXT BLAST WILL SEND YOU TO ETERNITY!

IT IS YOU WHO FACE
ETERNITY, JAKALS!

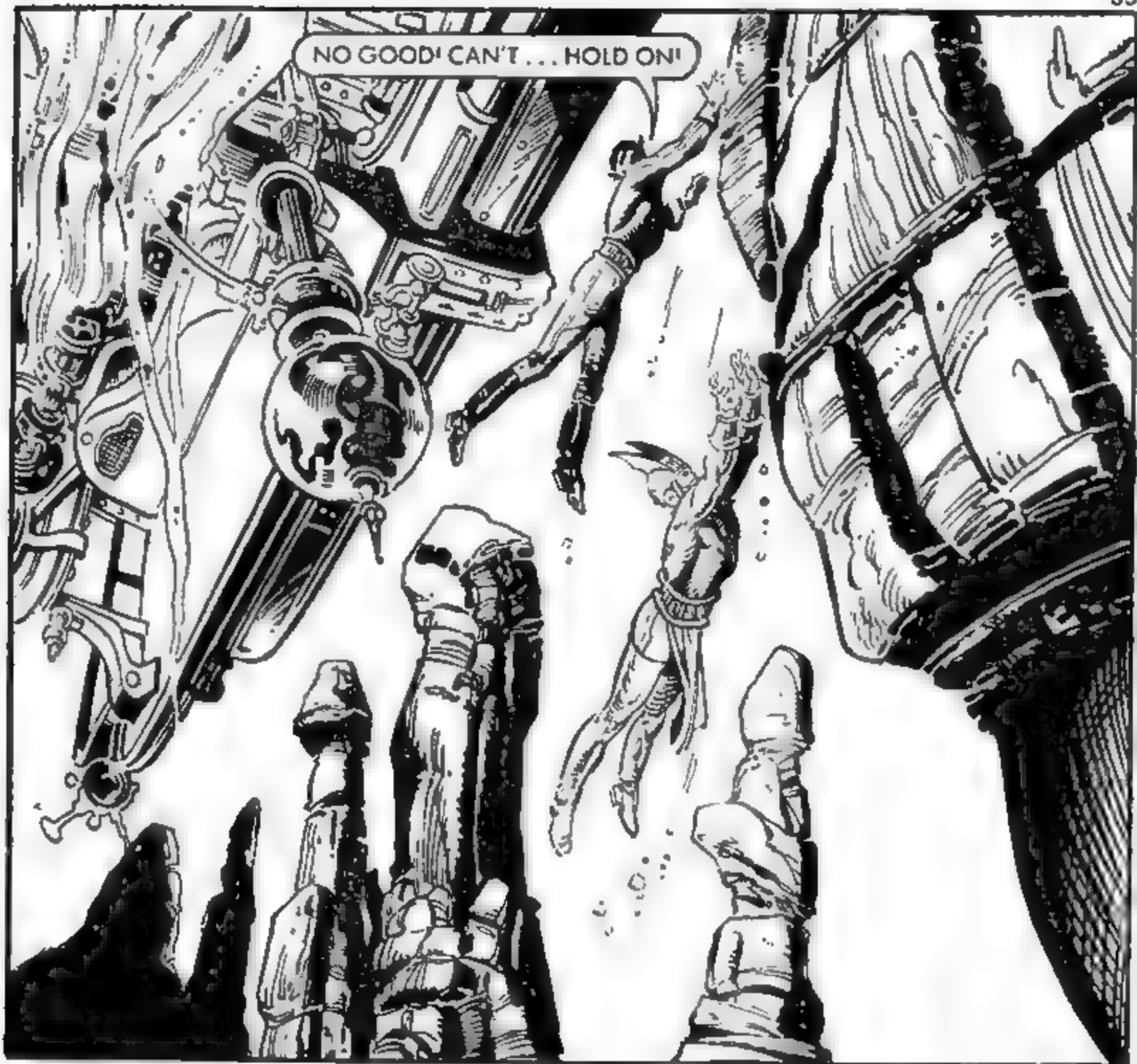


HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE!

JOSEF DESPERATELY ATTEMPTED TO MANOEUVRE THE MEGACARRIER, BUT BEFORE HE COULD GET A SHOT AT THE OTHER CRAFT...



OUT OF CONTROL, THE CRAFT VEERED CRAZILY



BUT THE MIGHTY GRIP OF KARDOR,
SAVED HIM FROM CERTAIN DEATH.




IT SEEMS WE SHALL TAKE
KARDOR ALIVE AFTER ALL!

MEANWHILE . . .

UH? WHERE AM I? . . .
MUST'VE BEEN HIT BY A
ROCK WHEN THE JAKALS
ATTACKED . . . GOT TO GET
OUT OF HERE . . . FIND THE
OTHERS






I CAN'T CLIMB UP, BUT MAYBE
I CAN GET OUT THIS WAY.




THE NARROW PASSAGEWAY LED
ONTO THE MOUNTAINSIDE ...

THE JAKALS
HAVE GOT THEM.



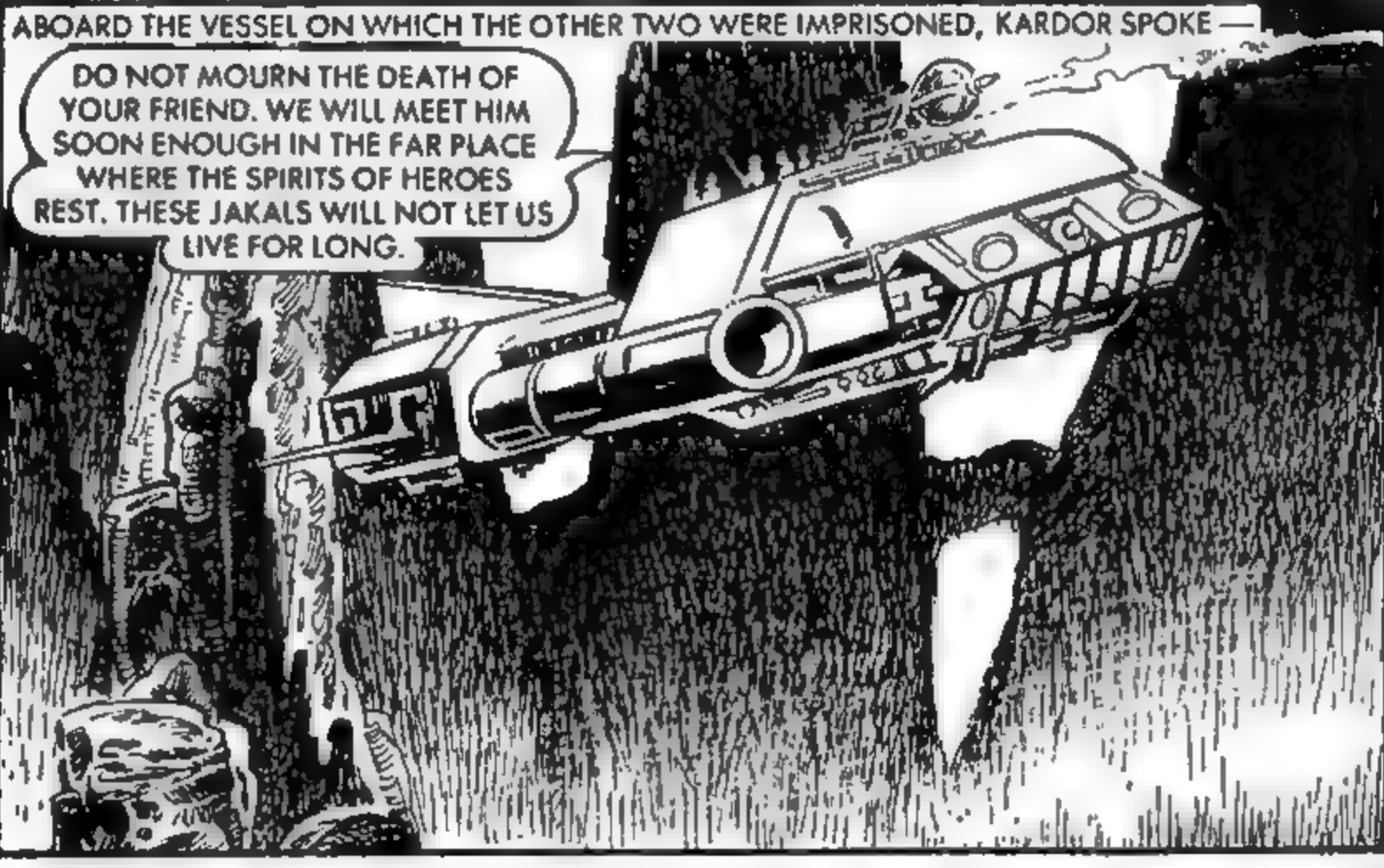
SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO GET DOWN
THIS MOUNTAIN AND TO THE JAKAL
COMPLEX — THAT WRECKED MEGA-
CARRIER GIVES ME AN IDEA.

BLANE WORKED HIS WAY DOWN TO THE LEDGE.

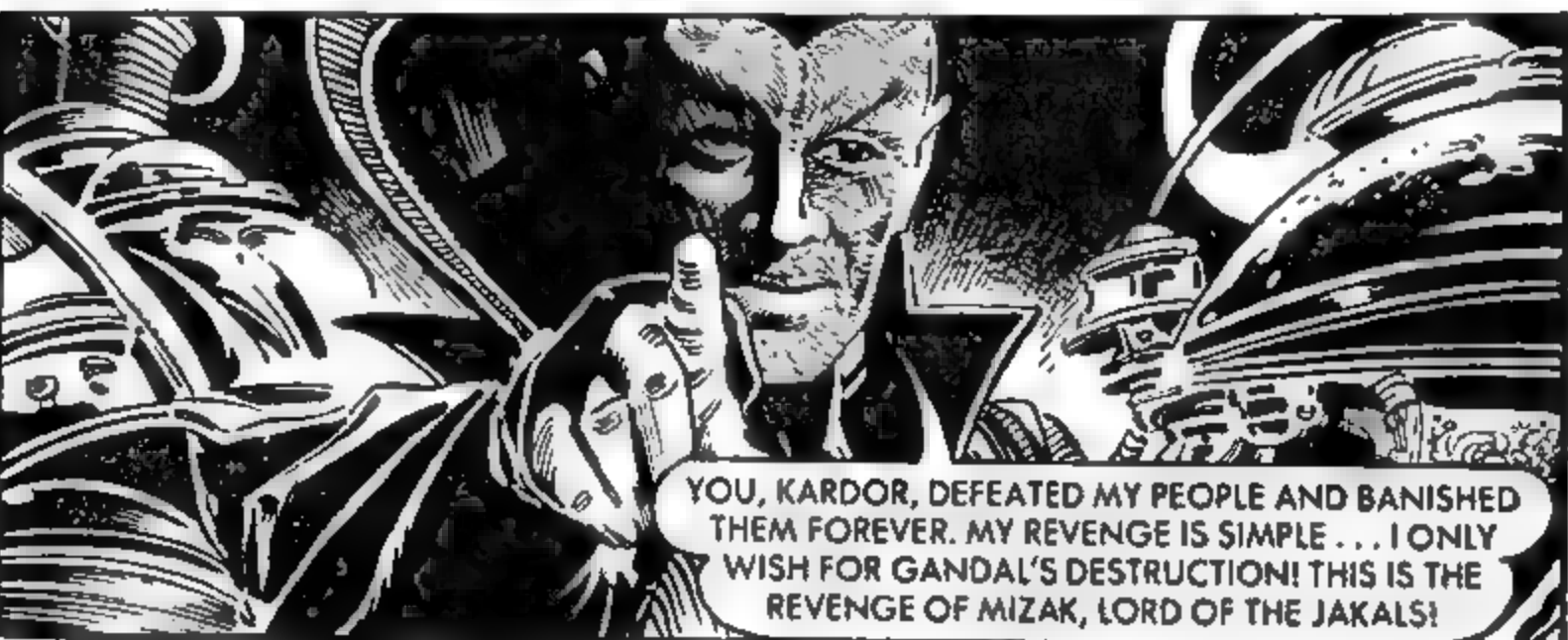


IF I CAN GET THE ANTI-GRAV POWER UNIT OUT AND WORKING, MAYBE IT'LL GET ME DOWN. IT'S WORTH A TRY.

ABOARD THE VESSEL ON WHICH THE OTHER TWO WERE IMPRISONED, KARDOR SPOKE —



DO NOT MOURN THE DEATH OF YOUR FRIEND. WE WILL MEET HIM SOON ENOUGH IN THE FAR PLACE WHERE THE SPIRITS OF HEROES REST. THESE JAKALS WILL NOT LET US LIVE FOR LONG.





DARKNESS WAS FALLING ON EPTIRAN AS BLANE FINISHED WORK ON THE WRECKED MEGA-CARRIER'S ANTIGRAV UNIT.

WELL, IT'S OPERATING! LET'S JUST HOPE IT'LL KEEP GOING LONG ENOUGH TO GET TO THE JAKAL'S BASE!





THE POWER UNIT SPED ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE OF EPTIRAN WITH BLANE CLINGING ON GRIMLY



BUT AS BLANE FLOATED OVER THE OUTER WALL OF THE JAKAL BASE HE WAS SPOTTED —

IT'S THE EARTHMAN!
WE THOUGHT HIM DEAD!

I'LL HAVE TO SILENCE THEM
BEFORE THEY RAISE THE ALARM.


WEAPONLESS, BLANE TOOK THE ONLY COURSE OF
ACTION —

HIS UNEXPECTED ASSAULT
OVERWHELMED THE GUARDS —


HE WON'T BE NEEDING HIS
UNIFORM ANY MORE, SO I
MIGHT AS WELL MAKE USE OF IT!

BLANE STRODE INTO THE COMPLEX —

NOW TO FIND
THE OTHERS.

A black and white comic book panel showing a character in a futuristic, high-tech environment. The character is walking down a wide, brightly lit corridor or plaza. The architecture is highly stylized, with sharp angles and a grid-like pattern on the floor. In the background, there are more structures and a few other figures. A speech bubble above the character contains the text "NOW TO FIND THE OTHERS."

THERE THEY ARE! I'VE GOT TO
GET IN THERE AFTER THEM. BUT HOW?

A black and white comic book panel showing the same character from the previous panel, now standing on a platform or balcony. They are looking down at a futuristic car that is driving on a track or road below. The car has a distinctive design with a large, rounded front and a small, boxy rear. The character's speech bubble says "THERE THEY ARE! I'VE GOT TO GET IN THERE AFTER THEM. BUT HOW?"

JOSEF AND KARDOR WERE BEING TAKEN TO THE EXECUTION CHAMBER.

NOW I SHALL WITNESS
THE DEATH OF KARDOR.



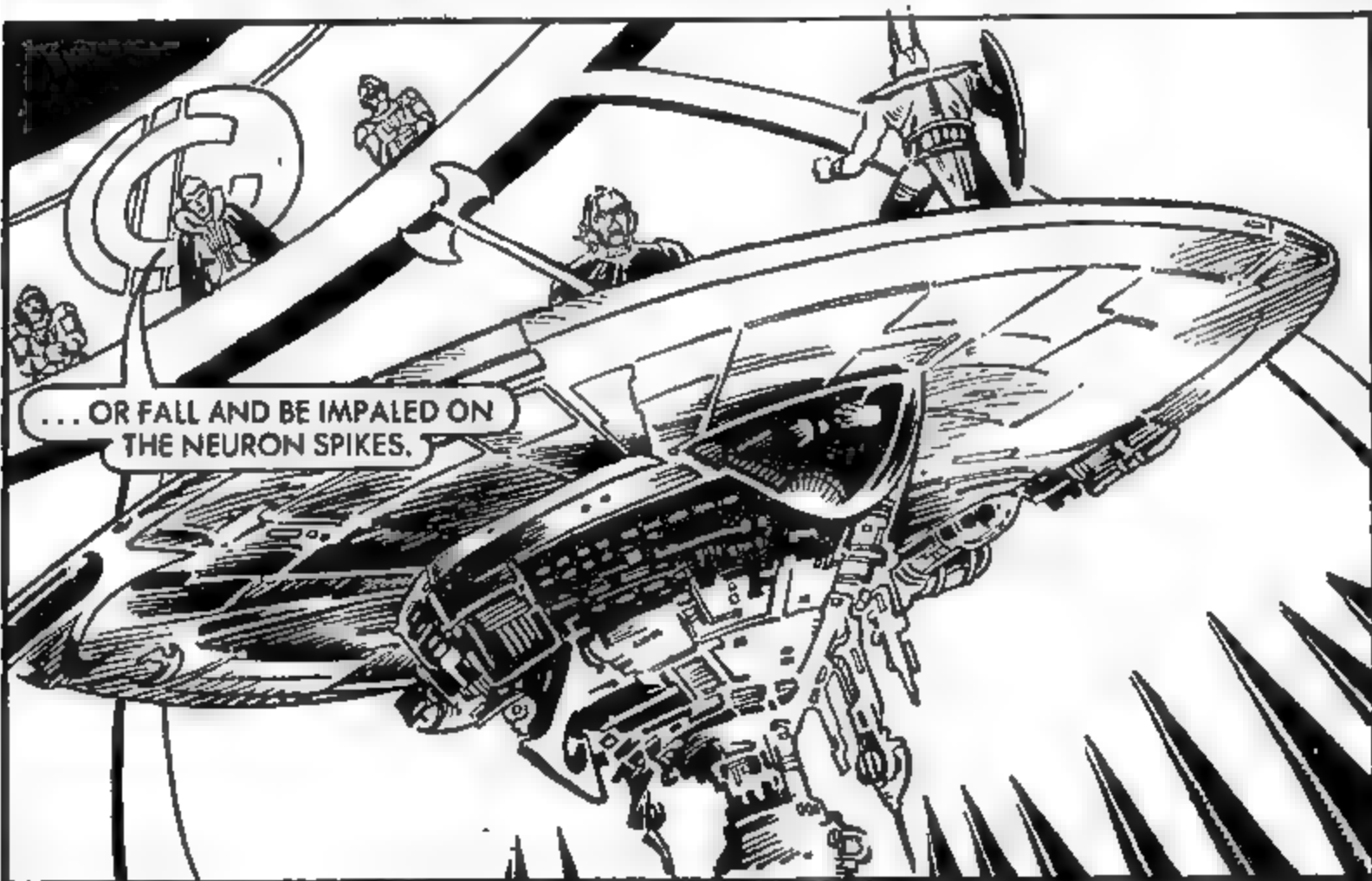
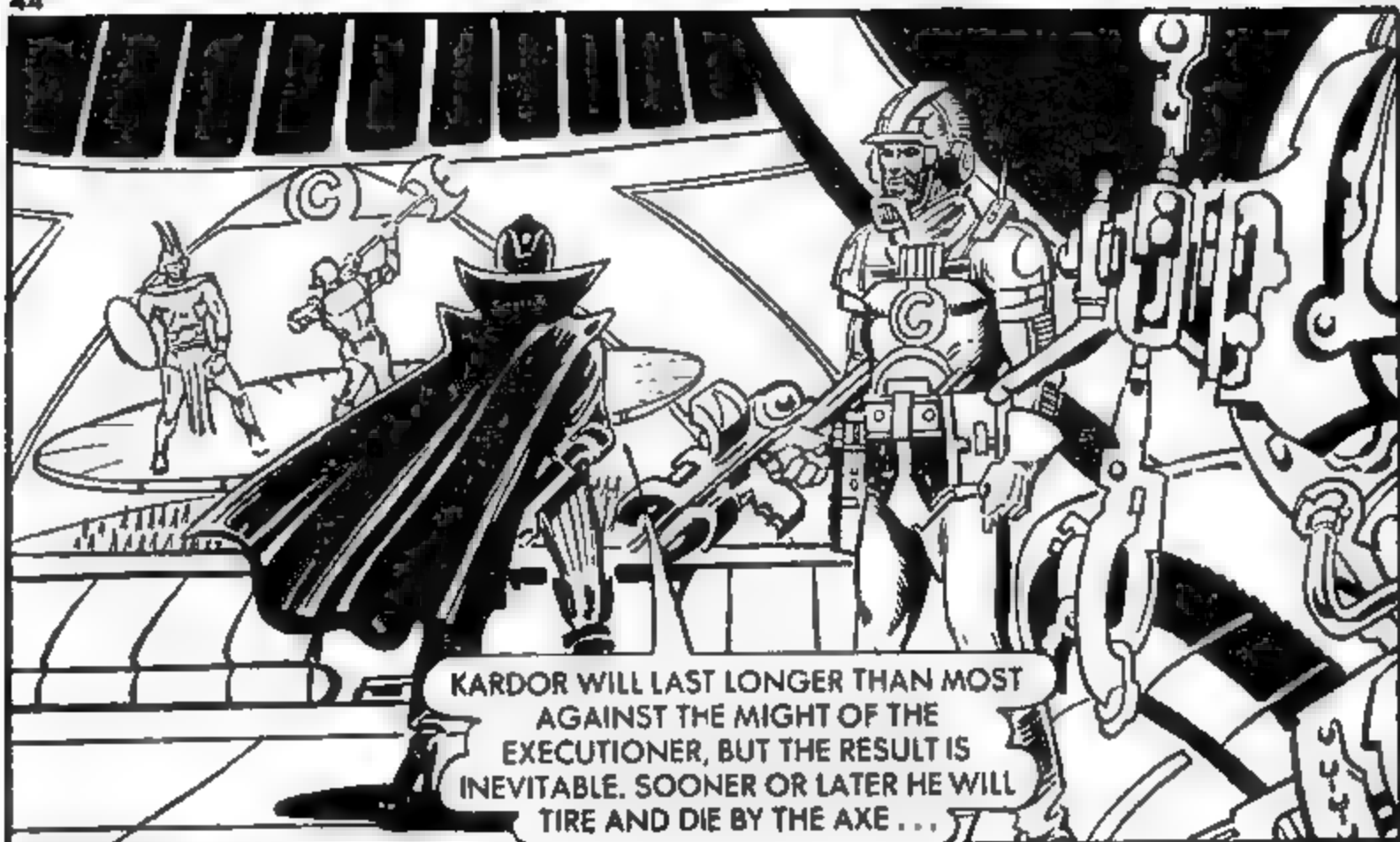
ARMED ONLY WITH A SHIELD, KARDOR
THE WARRIOR FACED THE ROBOT
EXECUTIONER.

HE HASN'T GOT
A CHANCE!



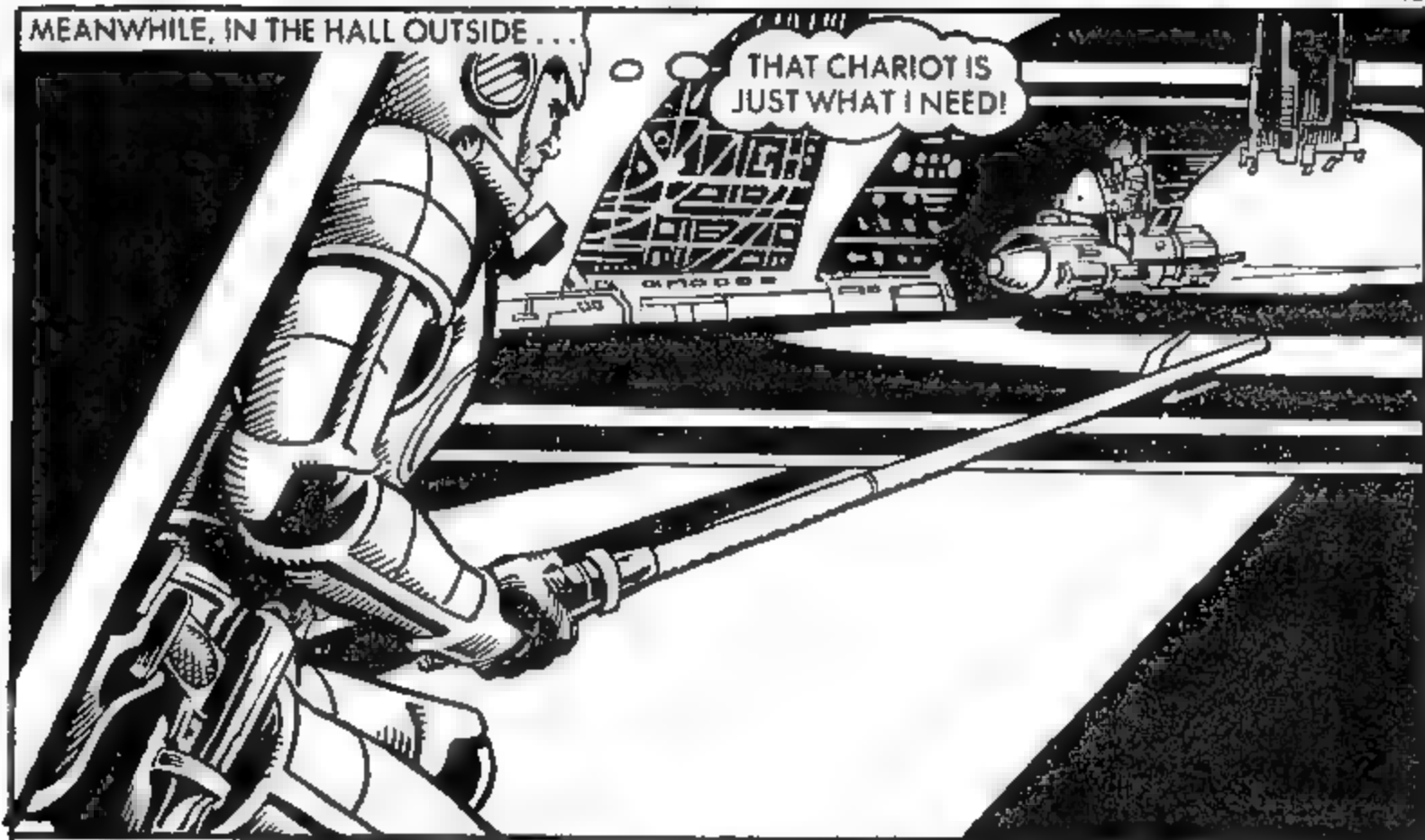
KARDOR FENDED OFF THE FIRST FLASHING ARC OF LIGHT —



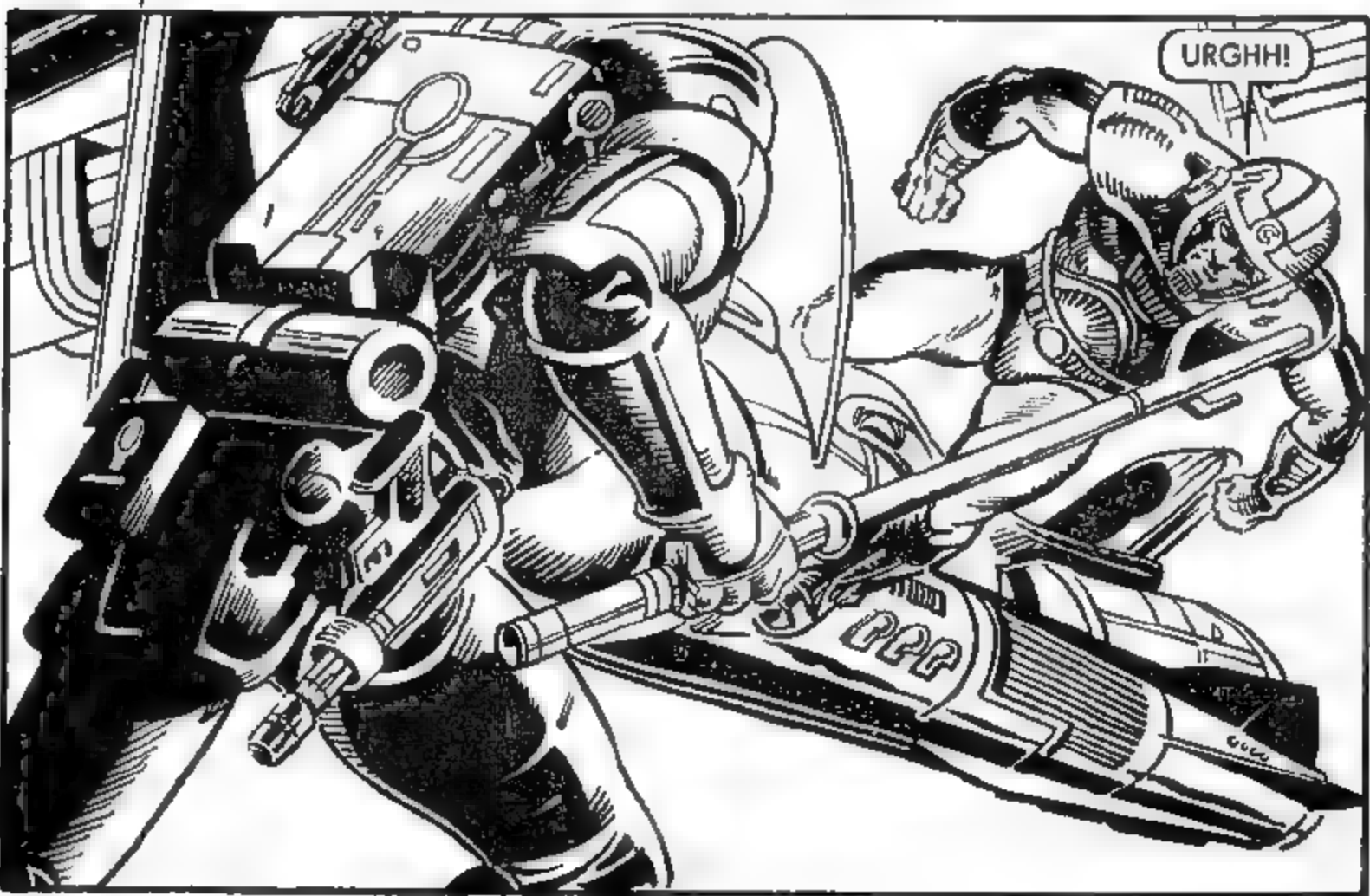


MEANWHILE, IN THE HALL OUTSIDE...

THAT CHARIOT IS
JUST WHAT I NEED!



URGHH!



BLANE LEAP INTO THE CHARIOT, AND HURTTLED DOWN THE CORRIDOR —

LET'S HOPE I CAN FIND JOSEF AND KARDOR BEFORE ANYTHING HAPPENS TO THEM!

BY SATURN!

BUT BLANE'S LASER HAD NO EFFECT ON THE ROBOT —

KILL THE INTRUDER!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP
THAT THING! HERE GOES!

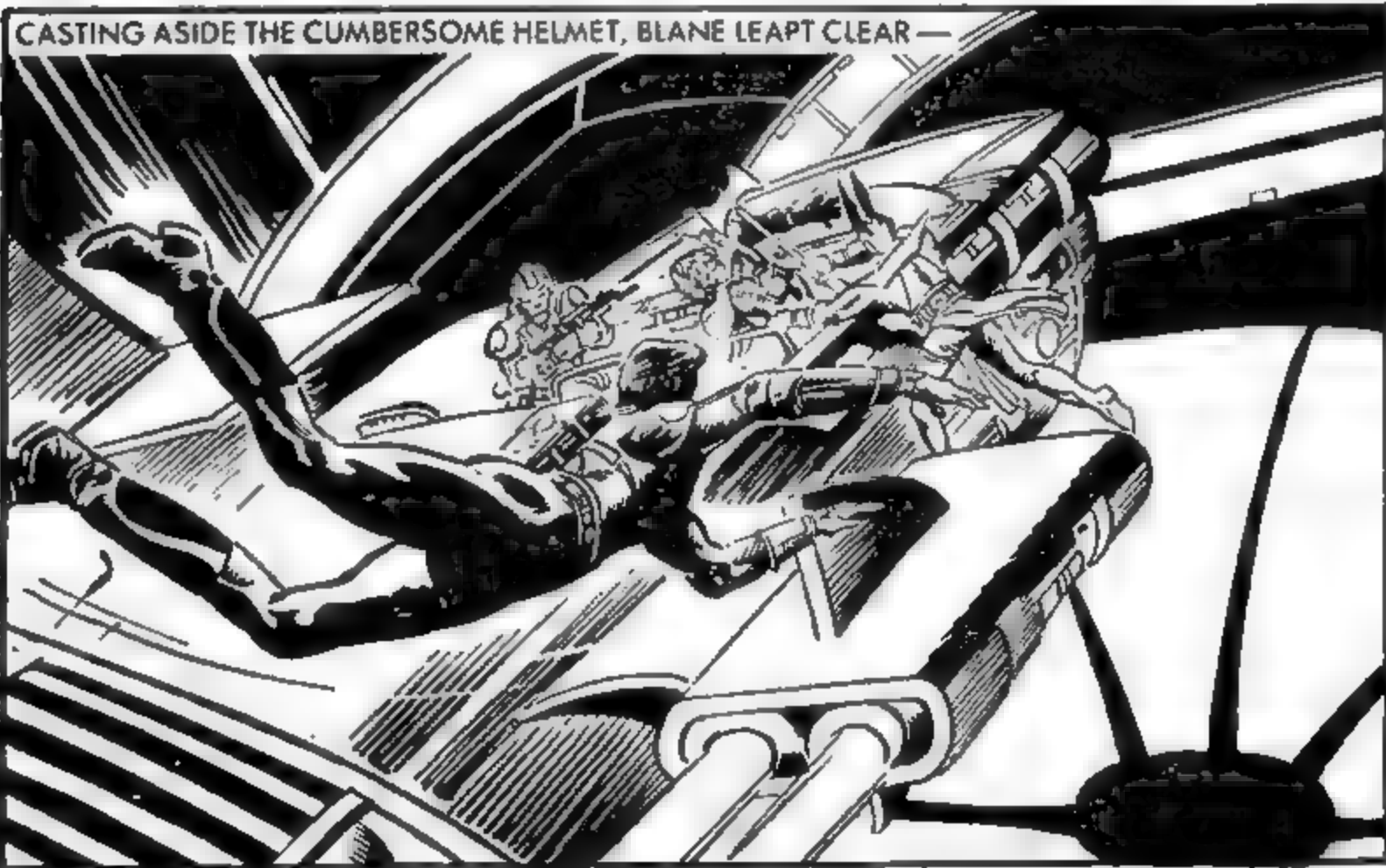
AS THE AXE
SANG DOWN AT
KARDOR, BLANE
RAMMED THE ROBOT!

SO, MY FRIEND, WE
LIVE TO FIGHT AGAIN!

THIS CHARIOT IS DONE FOR ...
WON'T STAY UP MUCH LONGER ...



CASTING ASIDE THE CUMBERSOME HELMET, BLAINE LEAPT CLEAR —





THE JAKAL LEADER FLED —

STAY, MIZAKI! YOU AND I
HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE!

WE WILL MEET AGAIN,
KARDORI! BUT NOT BEFORE I
HAVE MADE CERTAIN OF THE
DESTRUCTION OF GANDAL!



JOSEF OVERPOWERED MIZAK'S
BODYGUARD —



MIZAK ESCAPED
THROUGH HERE!

WE'VE GOT TO GET
AFTER HIM — AND QUICK!

IF HE STARTS THE BLACK RAY'S HYDROGEN FUSION
GENERATOR, NOTHING CAN SAVE GANDAL. THOSE
GENERATOR'S CAN'T BE TURNED OFF! IT'LL BUILD UP
TO MAXPOWER AND THEN — GOODBYE GANDAL!



THE THREE RACED THROUGH A MAZE OF PASSAGES —

LOOK! THE DOME'S OPENING. THAT
MEANS MIZAK'S STARTED THE GENERATOR!

THERE'S GOT TO BE
SOMETHING WE CAN DO.



IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME TO BUILD UP
POWER. IF WE COULD CONTACT
PEGASUS, SHE SHOULD GET HERE
IN TIME TO BLAST THE GENERATOR
BEFORE ANY REAL DAMAGE IS
DONE.



WHY DON'T WE USE A JAKAL WARCRRAFT
AND BLAST THE GENERATOR WITH THAT?

IT WOULDN'T WORK! THE GENERATOR
WOULD JUST ABSORB THE POWER OF
ORDINARY LASERS AND MEGA
BLASTERS



IT'LL ABSORB ANY SOURCE OF POWER
AND USE IT — EXCEPT MULTI PHASER.

LET'S TAKE A WARCRRAFT
AND CONTACT PEGASUS!



THE THREE LEAPT FROM THE SHADOWS —

WE'VE GOT TO
MOVE FAST!

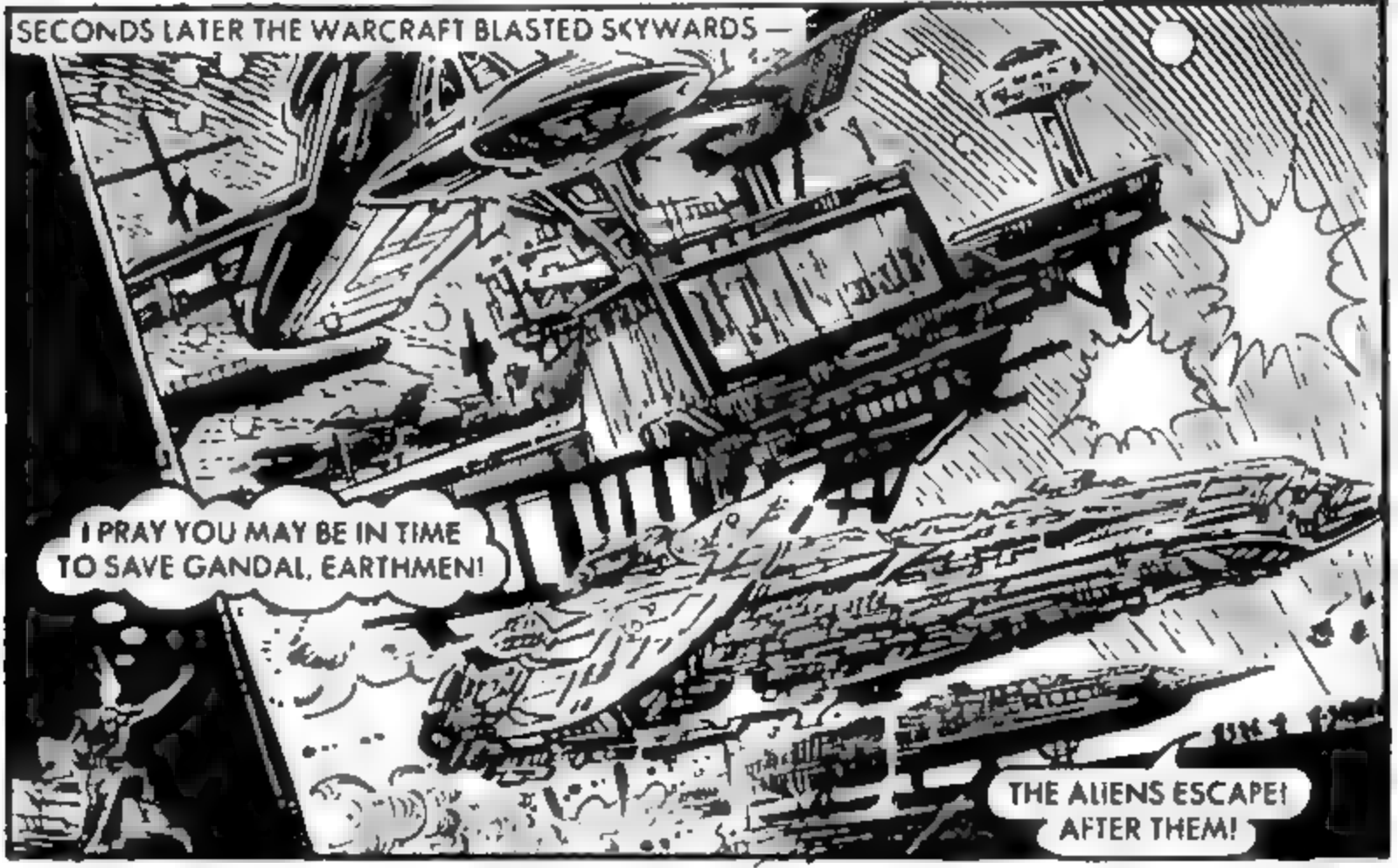


COME ON, KARDORI!

NO, MY FRIENDS. YOU DO NOT NEED ME. GO! I
WILL NOT LEAVE WHILE MIZAK REMAINS ALIVE!

GO!

SECONDS LATER THE WARCRRAFT BLASTED SKYWARDS —



I PRAY YOU MAY BE IN TIME
TO SAVE GANDAL, EARTHMEN!

THE ALIENS ESCAPE!
AFTER THEM!

BLANE AND KONRAD REACHED SPACE —

I'VE GOT THE TRANSCEIVER OPERATING.
LET'S HOPE I CAN CONTACT PEGASUS
— SHE COULD BE ON THE FAR EDGE OF
THIS GALAXY BY NOW!

JUPITER! THAT'S ONE
LASER OUT OF ACTION!

CALLING STARFLEET COMMAND
SHIP PEGASUS... EMERGENCY...



CALLING PEGASUS ... EMERGENCY ...

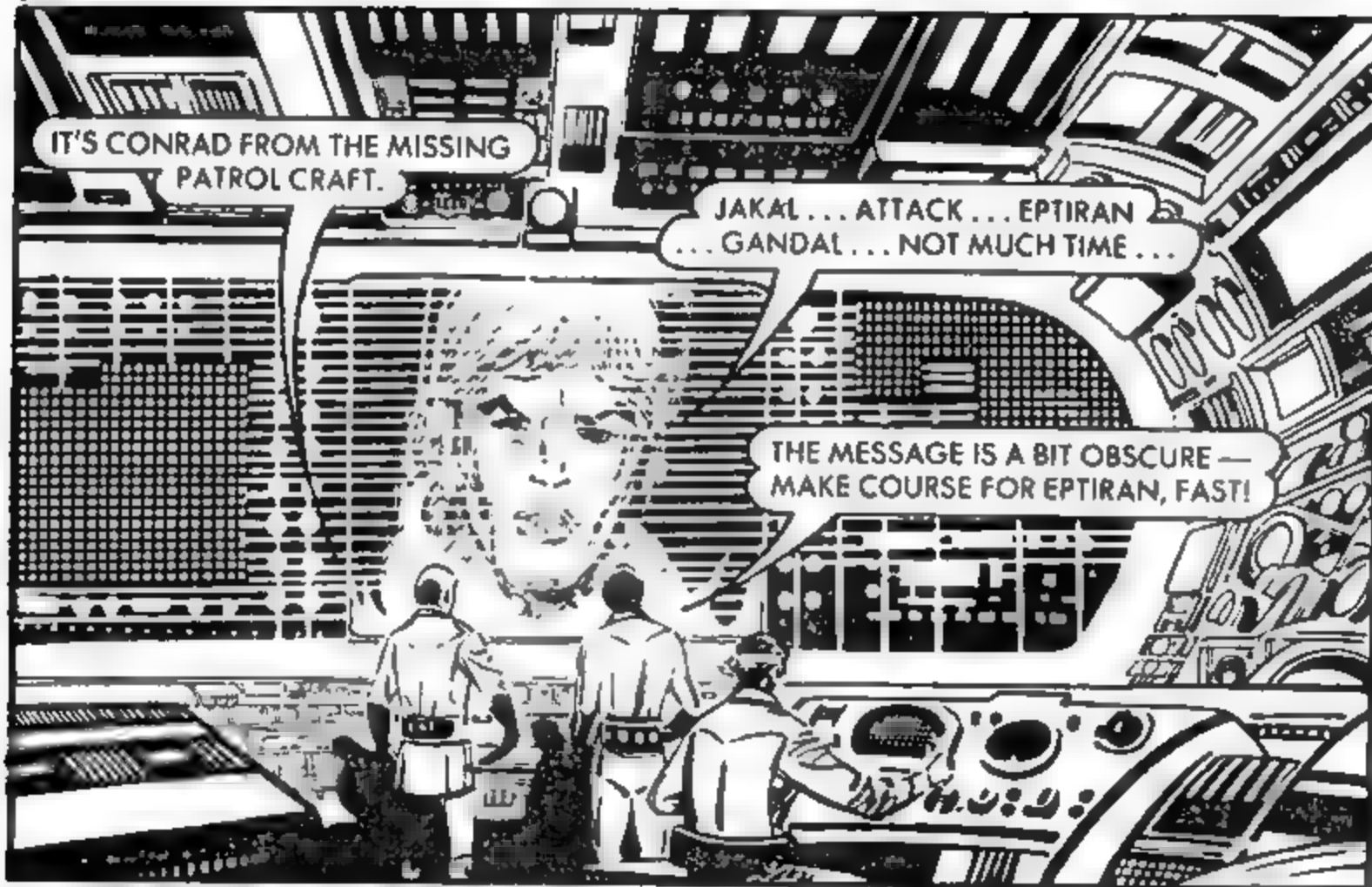
I GOT ANOTHER ONE, BUT WE'RE TAKING A LOT
OF HITS

GALACTIC SECTOR 5 STARSHIP, PEGASUS, WAS SEARCHING FOR THE MISSING PATROL CRAFT X5



I'M GETTING A MESSAGE,
SIR, FROM THE REGION OF EPTIRAN.

PUT IT ON VISUAL AND LET'S
SEE WHAT WE CAN MAKE OF IT.





THAT'S PUT
PAID TO HIM!

JUST AS WELL! WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY POWER
LEFT. BETTER PUT ON SPACE SUITS. THE
OXYGEN COUNT'S DROPPING FAST!

PEGASUS ARRIVED WITHIN MINUTES, AND THE TWO SPACERS JETTED ACROSS.



WHAT THE BLAZES HAS
BEEN GOING ON HERE?

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, SKIPPER. THE JAKALS
HAVE BUILT A BLACK RAY ON EPTIRAN AND
IT'S BUILDING UP POWER RIGHT NOW...

ONCE ON BOARD THE PEGASUS —

YOU WANT ME TO BLAST AN ANTI-MATTER TRANSMITTER WITH MULTI PHASERS? BUT THAT'S NEVER BEEN TRIED BEFORE

I KNOW! BUT THEORETICALLY IT'LL WORK WE'VE GOT TO TRY IT, SKIPPER.

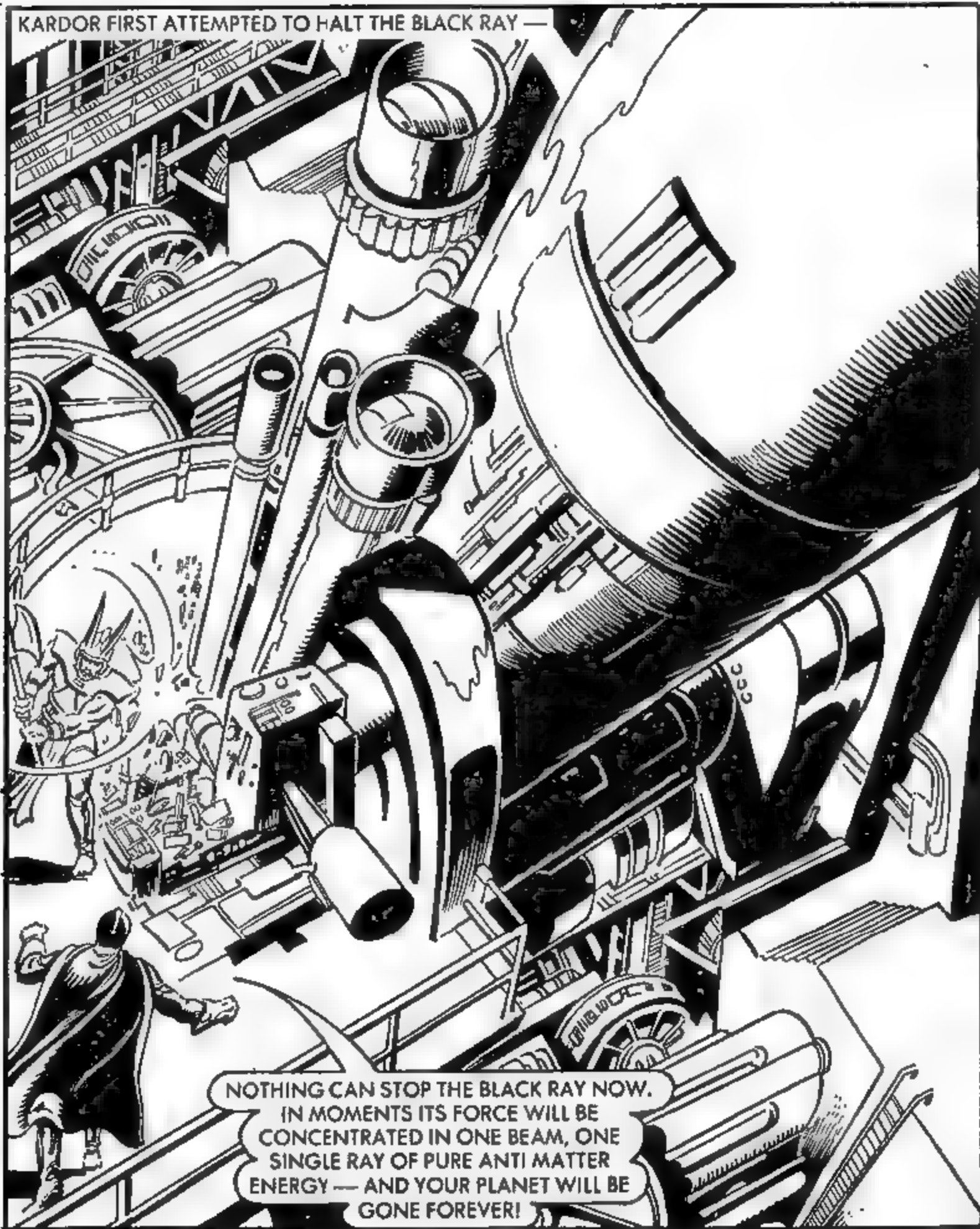
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO SAVE GANDAL — OR EARTH.

MEANWHILE, THE VENGEANCE-SEEKING KARDOR HAD FOUND HIS QUARRY.

SO YOU DID NOT ESCAPE WITH YOUR EARTHLING FRIENDS!

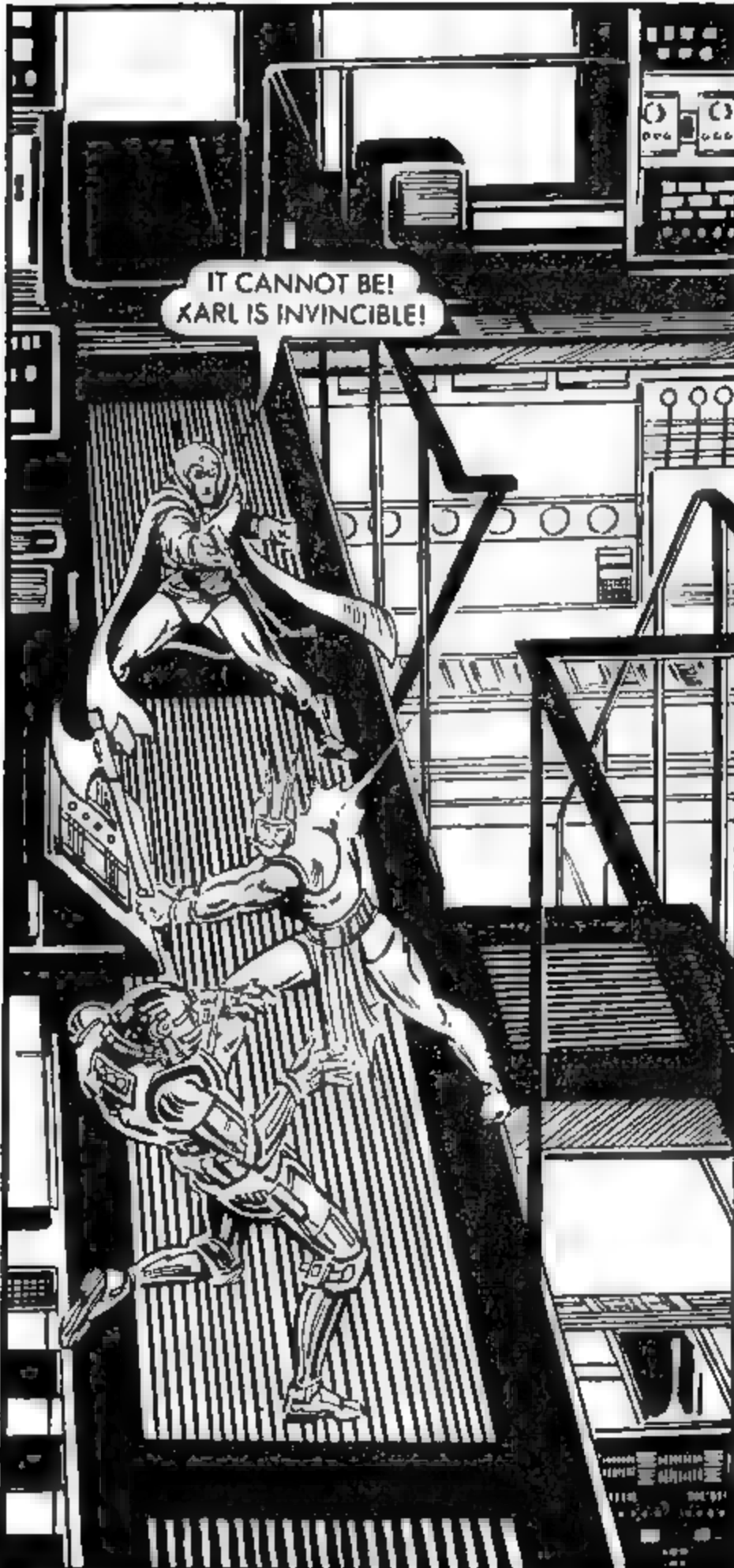
NO, MIZAK. I HAVE COME TO KILL YOU.

KARDOR FIRST ATTEMPTED TO HALT THE BLACK RAY —



NOTHING CAN STOP THE BLACK RAY NOW.
IN MOMENTS ITS FORCE WILL BE
CONCENTRATED IN ONE BEAM, ONE
SINGLE RAY OF PURE ANTI MATTER
ENERGY — AND YOUR PLANET WILL BE
GONE FOREVER!





IT CANNOT BE!
KARL IS INVINCIBLE!



KARDOR LAUNCHED HIMSELF AT
MIZAK'S THROAT —

YOUR ROBOT CANNOT
HELP YOU NOW!

KARDOR'S IMMENSE STRENGTH SENT MIZAK AND HIS EXECUTIONER TUMBLING TO THEIR DEATHS —

DIE, EVIL ONE!



NOT LONG AFTER, PEGASUS DRIFTED IN —

IT'S AN EARTHSHIP! SO THEY SUCCEEDED! GANDAL MAY YET BE SAVED!



KARDOR SPED FROM THE DOMED BUILDING, IN A PATROL CRAFT —

THAT'S KARDOR! GIVE HIM A
MINUTE TO GET CLEAR, SKIPPER!

THIS THEORY OF YOURS
HAD BETTER WORK, JOSEF.

HERE GOES!

SIXTY SECONDS LATER, A BANK OF MULTI-PHASERS BLASTED IN UNISON . . .

THE PHASER POWER REACTED AGAINST THE BUILD-UP ENERGY OF THE HYDROGEN FUSION GENERATOR, WHICH EXPLODED WITH A FORCE THAT SHOOK THE MOUNTAIN PEAKS OF EPTIRAN!



THE JAKAL COMPLEX WAS DESTROYED COMPLETELY.



YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT'S KARDOR
THE WARRIOR? BUT HE MUST BE 150
YEARS OLD

YES... ABOUT THAT!

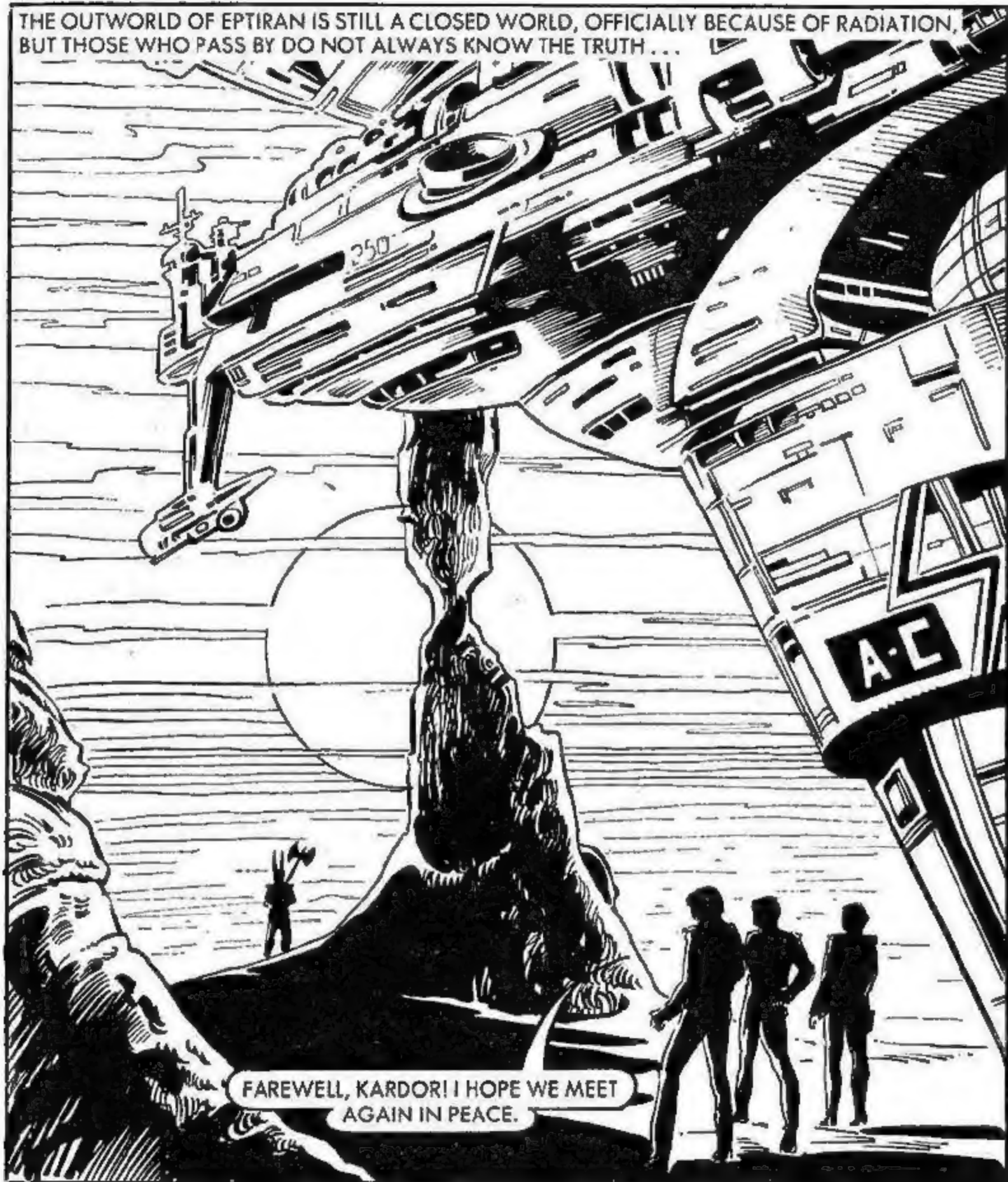
KARDOR WAS BEAMED ABOARD —

I THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY PLANET,
EARTHMEN. I OWE YOU A DEBT I CAN NEVER
REPAY.



I WILL REMAIN ON EPTIRAN, THE WAY I HAVE
LIVED THESE LAST YEARS, IN PEACE. BUT IF THE
DAY SHOULD COME THAT YOU HAVE NEED OF
ME, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME. DO NOT
TELL OF KARDOR — HE DIED MANY YEARS
AGO — LET IT REMAIN AT THAT.

THE OUTWORLD OF EPTIRAN IS STILL A CLOSED WORLD, OFFICIALLY BECAUSE OF RADIATION, BUT THOSE WHO PASS BY DO NOT ALWAYS KNOW THE TRUTH...



Printed and Published in Great Britain by D.C. THOMSON & CO., LTD.,
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DON'T FORGET TO READ THIS MONTH'S

OTHER

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 107

THE
MAGNON
MARAUDERS

ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSAGENT'S

STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN 9



Sigma 7 made five incomplete orbits of the Earth on October 3, 1962 with US Navy astronaut, Commander Walter Marty Schirra. His flight time was 9hr. 13 min. 11 sec. His next flight was in Gemini 6 on December 15, 1965, when a rendezvous was made with Gemini 7. This lasted 1 day 1 hr. 51 min. 43 sec. His final mission was as commander of the first manned Apollo, No. 7, on October 11, 1968. This mission lasted 10 days 20 hr. 9 min. 3 sec. Schirra is now head of a computer company.